



Keeping records updated essential

Week of May 30 – June 5 07

Reviewing paperwork a big part of pre-deployment responsibilities

The Air Force mission means being ready to fly, fight and win any time, any place, so Airmen must be prepared to deploy at a moment's notice. Taking care of personal records is a major part of being ready to go.

When deploying necessity ensures you review personal documents and make decisions you normally don't have to think about making. Every Airman is responsible to ensure records are up to date and personal affairs are in order whether it's keeping a will current, creating a power of attorney or updating a family care plan.

For example, many life events can impact an existing will. Marriage, divorce, a change in financial status, the birth of a child, or the loss of a loved one are common events that can have significant effects on a will, perhaps even invalidating it entirely.

"In addition to operational readiness, legal readiness is a vital part of overall deployment preparation," said Maj. Gen. Jack L. Rives, The Judge Advocate General. A current will that describes your desires is a key component of legal readiness. Your family's ability to carry on -- financially, emotionally, perhaps even concerning the care of your children -- depends in large part on an accurate will.

Personal factors to consider:

- Check your military ID card (and those of your family), as well as your government travel card and personal ATM card to ensure they won't expire while you're deployed
- Wills and powers of attorney can be created or updated through your legal office
- A family care plan is essential. Ensure someone can care for your children or pets while you're away
- Check with your local military personnel flight or use Virtual MPF to update your emergency data card and SGLI benefits
- Finance can help set up allotments to pay bills and other expenses

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